Claim Amendments accompanying Response and Amendment filed August 3, 2005 in reply to Office Action mailed on May 3, 2005 in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/680,396

1. (Original) A method of forming a cladding for being disposed about the core of an optical article, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;

sintering the layer of soot to form a first sintered layer including voids that are at least one of empty or comprising a gas;

adhering a different layer of soot to the elongate glass article for forming a different portion of the cladding so to be disposed about the core when present;

sintering the different layer of soot to form a different sintered layer substantially free from voids; and

disposing a second cladding about the cladding, the second cladding comprising an index of refraction lower than an index of refraction comprised by the cladding.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 including drawing the elongate glass article into a glass fiber.

3. (Original) A method of forming a cladding for being disposed about the core of an optical article, comprising the steps of:

providing a hollow elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to a surface of the elongate glass article for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;

sintering the layer of soot to form a sintered layer including voids that are at least one of empty or comprising a gas;

providing a second elongate glass article for providing one of at least a portion of the core and a different portion of the cladding where the different portion is substantially free of voids; and

oversleeving one of the glass articles with the other of the glass articles.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 including drawing the oversleeved glass articles into a glass fiber.

5. (Original) A method of forming a cladding for surrounding the core of an optical article, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;

sintering said layer of soot to form a first sintered layer of the cladding;

adhering a different layer of soot to the elongate glass article for forming a different portion of said cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;

exposing only the different layer of soot to a selected material in the form of a gas or liquid for absorption by the different layer of soot; and

sintering the different layer of soot to form a second sintered layer of said cladding.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 including drawing the elongate optical fiber into a glass fiber.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding <u>for being</u> disposed about the core of an optical article, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to the elongate glass article for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;

distributing particles having an index of refraction different than the index of refraction of the soot with the layer of soot; and

sintering the soot ~~layers~~ <u>layer</u>.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 including drawing the elongate glass article to form a glass fiber.

9. (Original) A method of forming a cladding for being disposed about the core of an optical article, comprising the steps of:

providing a hollow elongate glass article;

adhering a layer of soot to the inside of the elongate glass article for forming a portion of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present;

exposing the layer of soot to a selected material in one of a gas and liquid form for absorption by the soot;

sintering the soot;

providing a second glass article for providing one of at least a portion of the core and a different portion of the cladding; and

oversleeving one of the glass articles with the other of the glass articles.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 including drawing the glass articles into a glass fiber.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a cladding for being disposed about the core of an optical article~~an elongate optical article having a core and a cladding disposed about the core~~, the cladding having an index of refraction that is less than the index of refraction of the core, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate glass article;

adding glass to the article for forming a first part of the cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present, the added glass including discrete regions having a different index of refraction than the added glass; and

adding glass without discrete regions to the elongate glass article for forming another part of the same cladding so as to be disposed about the core when present.